

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A topical composition comprising:
 - 2 at least about 5.0% (w/v) pretreated ascorbic acid; and
 - 3 water,
 - 4 wherein the composition has a pH of more than 3.5.
- 1 2. The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition has a pH of about
2 3.6 to about 4.2.
- 1 3. The composition of claim 2, wherein the composition has a pH of about
2 3.7 to about 4.0.
- 1 4. The composition of claim 1, further comprising an anti-inflammatory
2 compound.
- 1 5. The composition of claim 4, wherein the anti-inflammatory compound
2 includes sulfur-containing anti-inflammatory compound.
- 1 6. The composition of claim 5, wherein the sulfur-containing anti-
2 inflammatory compound is selected from the group consisting of cystine, cysteine, N-
3 acetyl cysteine, glutathione, cysteamine, S-methylcysteine, methionine and mixtures
4 thereof.
- 1 7. The composition of claim 4, wherein the anti-inflammatory compound
2 includes aminosugar.
- 1 8. The composition of claim 7, wherein the aminosugar includes
2 glucosamine, mannosamine, N-acetylmannosamine, galactosamine, glucosamine-6-
3 phosphate, N-acetylglucosamine, N-acetylmannosamine, N-acetylgalactosamine and
4 mixtures thereof.
- 1 9. The composition of claim 1, comprising about 15% (w/v) to about 25%
2 (w/v) pretreated ascorbic acid.

1 10. The composition of claim 1, wherein the water is selected from the group
2 consisting of distilled water, deionized water, distilled deionized water and mixtures
3 thereof.

1 11. The composition of claim 1, further comprising about 0.5 to about 5%
2 (w/v) of a non-toxic zinc salt.

1 12. The composition of claim 11, wherein the non-toxic zinc salt is zinc
2 sulfate.

1 13. The composition of claim 1, further comprising a tyrosine compound
2 selected from the group consisting of tyrosine, N-acetyl-tyrosine, tyrosine ethyl ester
3 hydrochloride, tyrosine phosphate and mixtures thereof.

1 14. The composition of claim 13, comprising about 1 to about 10% (w/v) of
2 the tyrosine compound.

1 15. The composition of claim 1, further comprising a pharmaceutically
2 acceptable carrier.

1 16. The composition of claim 15, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable
2 carrier includes glycerol, propyleneglycol, sorbitol, hydroxypropylcellulose or a mixture
3 thereof.

1 17. The composition of claim 15, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable
2 carrier includes alkyleneglycol, hydroxyalkylcellulose or a mixture thereof.

1 18. A topical composition comprising:
2 an aqueous solution including at least about 5.0% (w/v) ascorbic acid,
3 wherein about 10 to about 50% of the ascorbic acid is pretreated ascorbic acid.

1 19. The composition of claim 18, wherein the aqueous solution has a pH of
2 more than about 3.5.

1 20. The composition of claim 18, further comprising a non-toxic zinc salt.

1 21. The composition of claim 18, further comprising a stimulant of protein
2 synthesis.

1 22. The composition of claim 21, wherein the stimulant of protein synthesis is
2 a tyrosine compound.

1 23. The composition of claim 18, further comprising a precursor of melanin
2 synthesis.

1 24. The composition of claim 18, comprising about 15 to about 25% (w/v)
2 ascorbic acid.

1 25. The composition of claim 18, wherein the topical composition is an
2 aqueous solution, a serum, a lotion, an ointment, a cream, or a gel.

1 26. A topical composition comprising:
2 an aqueous solution including at least about 5.0% (w/v) ascorbic acid, wherein
3 about 10 to about 50% of the ascorbic acid is pretreated ascorbic acid;
4 a non-toxic zinc salt; and
5 a tyrosine compound,
6 wherein the composition has a pH of more than 3.5.